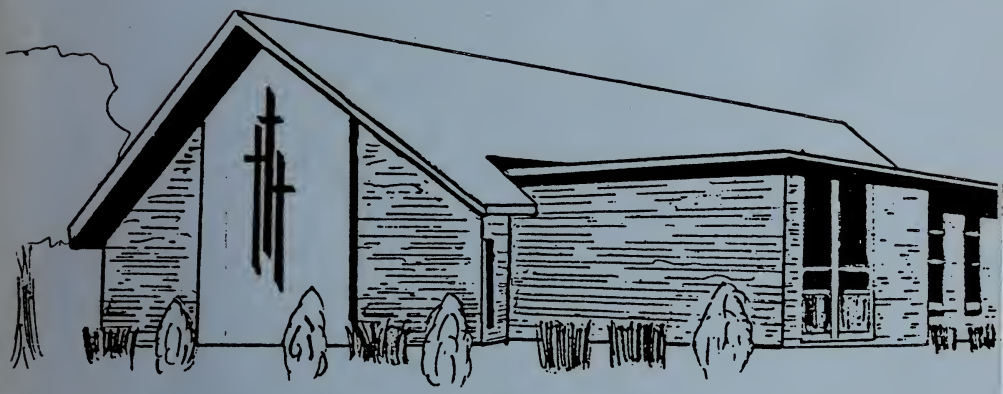
ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

1980



First Church of God

1610 Field Drive Noblesville, Indiana

46060

Pastor's Report...

The past year has been one full of change... both for this church and for my family. One year ago found both of us in different positions, but through the poovidence of God, this year finds us together with me serving as your pastor. I am trusting that this will be the case for many years to come.

At this writing, Brenda and I have just been here a little less than two months. Two months is not a very long time to be adequately able to make an evaluation of a church's potential, but we both feel like First Church is right on the brink of some fantastic spiritual and numerical growth. You folks are an answer to prayer for us. We appreciate your love for one another so very much. We are thrilled with your love and concern for us. Many churches have fallen apart under less stress than you folks faced the past six months since Rev. Heater's resignation...it is never easy when you are without a pastor...but I believe the deciding factor here has been your desire to see God's will done above personal desires. You are to be praised for this spirit.

I want to share with you some of the things that I have been doing since arriving in Noblesville on January 1, 1981. At this point of writing, I have preached 13 sermons and delivered 5 Wednesday night studies. I have begun a church newsletter, THE HERALD, which is published weekly and is now going into over 220 homes; some of these are outside the area, but over 160 of these weekly papers are going into homes right here in Noblesville plus another 20 more are in homes of the surrounding communities. This gives the church plenty of exposure and provides us with an opportunity to get into many homes of folks who are not now attending First Church on a regular basis. More importantly, it keeps the body of believers informed of programs in the church and needs of others in the body.

In the area of visitation, I have been quite busy. Many of the calls I have made so far have found Brenda able to be with me...I am thankful for her support. Altogether, I have made the following number and kinds of visits:

23 hospital calls and contacts
16 visits and calls on those sick at home
30 visits with members and prospective members

7 counseling sessions
2 funerals

Hopefully, as time and work load permit, I will be able to get into everyone's home before this reporting time next year. I covet your prayers as I strive to perform this task along with my other responsibilities. Allow me to add that I do indeed want for anyone one of you who really need a visit for any need at any time to feel free to call me at the office or at home.

In closing this report, let us look together to the future! There are many things to be done this coming year and in the years to follow. We are looking at upgrading our present facilities. We have already begun childrens' and adults' choirs. We are searching for a means which will be effective in expanding our visitation ministry to include more people. We are praying hard that God will provide us with an associate pastor to work in the areas of youth and music. We are working to re-organize our Day-Care ministry so as to make it more streamlined and thus more effective. All of these and more are in our vision for the Church in the days ahead. I personally hope that you will catch this vision of a growing, dynamic Church of God in Noblesville, Indiana and will commit yourself to seeing that vision become a reality.

Allow me please to leave you with this thought: Paul, to the Philippians, in spite of his circumstances, said, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:4-7 NIV)

GOD BLESS YOU REAL GOOD,

Pastor Black

Board of Trustees Report...

The purpose of the Board of Trustees is to manage the business and financial affairs of the Church. We also serve as the Budget Committee.

The Board is composed of six members who serve three- year terms and the treasurer who is elected annually. There were time this past year when we didn't have full membership due to the resignation of two members at separate times. These vacancies have been filled so that now we have seven members.

This past year of 1980 marked the beginning of Happiness Is...Child Care Center at our Church. The day-care is a real spiritual arm of the Church and a fulfillment of the early dreams and plans for the educational unit. Rev. Charles Heater and Miss Barbara Palmer were the first Director and Head Teacher, respectively. Rev. Black and Mrs. Karen Fuller now hold these positions. The Board of Trustees is the Board of Directors for the day-care. Rev. Heater and Miss Palmer spent many hours in preperation for the opening day, May 26, 1980. Our day-care is fully licensed by the State of Indiana with the capacity for 105 pupils, ranging from ages 2-10. Mrs. Fuller is holding regular Kindergarten classes on weekdays and is also teaching Nursery school with that age group.

Prior to opening the day-care, a fire alarm system had to be installed to meet the licensing requirements. To defray this cost of more than $3200.00 and to have money to begin operation, it was necessary to borrow $4000.00. This was done in January 1980 by means of a promissory note to a member of our laity at 7% annual interest.

In the early part of 1975 we needed money for the Building Fund, so, as many of you will remember, we borrowed from some of the laity of the Church a total of $6200.00 in promissory notes. During this past year we paid off the last of these. Also during the past year, we have lowered our Building Fund debt to just a few dollars over $53,200.00. One of our main concerns right now is that we get our educational unit completely paid for as soon as possible.

Beginning March 1, 1981, the rate of interest paid to the Board of Church Extensions is being raised to 12 3/4%. Our

monthly payments on $900.00 will consist of a large portion being applied for the interest payments.

This year a spirit duplicator was purchased for office use. Additionally, a Weed-Eater was also bought. We are in the process of selling our older busses, one being sold already and the other one spoken for, leaving us with the two yellow Dodge busses to be driven for our Bus Ministry.

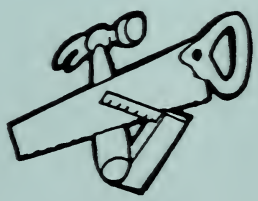
Our building and grounds are in dire need of repair and beautification. These are not going unnoticed. We are giving much thought and consideration regarding what is to be done with the house, former parsonage, on our grounds. Our church furnace has had and is still in need of repair for it to operate satisfactorily. To help guide us in these areas of repair and beautification, a Beautification Committee has been named to serve for the next year. Reports will soon be coming from them.

We, as members of the Board, are very conscious that we are disbursing God's money which you have and are giving for His work here at Noblesville and abroad, in Indiana and in other parts of the world. We thank you for the trust vested in us and ask you to pray that we may be wise and discreet in all our responsibilities.

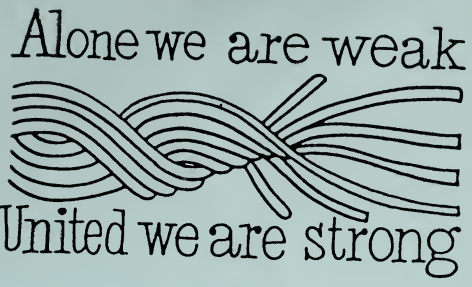
Humbly submitted,

Dedrick Falin,
Board of Trustees Chairman

Board members in the past year were:
Dedrick Falin
Helen Hinshaw
Sam Wheeler
Joe Phipps
Jim Myers
Alma Bays
Harold McDonald



Treasurer's Report...



This has been a traumatic year in the history of our Church. I thought I would like to retrospect a little at this time to see how the Lord has brought us through to this point in our Church's history. "Sing unto the Lord; for He hath done excellant things: this is known in all the earth." (Isaiah 12:5 KJV)

In looking back over the journals I noted that our yearly income in the year 1949-50 was $2985.04. Expenses that year were almost as much, leaving a balance of $4.55 on April 1, 1950. There were other funds on hand totaling $87.40, so, Sister Olive Fisher, who was the elected treasurer for the year 1950-51, reported a total of $91.95 in the Treasure Chest. I wondered whether we did not even have a checking account at that time. I had forgotten. Because of illness Sister Fisher had to give up the work of treasurer and I was appointed acting treasurer on April 11, 1950. At that time we were paying Rev. Hargett $30 salary per week with no expense allowance. He had left a high-salaried job at Guide Lamp, Anderson, to accept the pastorate because he felt the call of God on his life. Beginning May 7, 1950, his salary was raised to $45 per week.

I was interested in reading an account of pledges that were made in 1949 to pay the parsonage oil bill. Seven families pledged to buy 100 gallons of oil; the cost was $13.00 each. Six young people had pledged one gallon each, 13¢. Verna Fern Whitmill Maines and our Joe were among the list of youth. Five families of that group are still active in our church today. Beginning April, 1951, Rev. Hargett was allowed $6 car expense weekly. In 1953, his salary was raised to $60 weekly with an additional car allowance of $10 per week. During 1953 our Church was incorporated.

I find no record of a budget being made until 1956-57. It totaled $9599.56. All I can remember about the first budget is that I was frightened at the thought of making one, a new experience for me. It contained 17 items, one being $2.00 per week to pay expense for a music director to come from Anderson on Sundays. I can't remember whether this included Wednesday nights or not. By 1960 our budget was

increased to $11,451.60. In 1965 it had raised to $15,437.23. In that year sitting on the Board of Trustees were three persons who are now presently on the Board, Joe Phipps, Sam Wheeler and myself. By 1975 our budget was raised to $42,814.27. This year, 1981-82, we are proposing a budget amounting to almost $57,000.

In the year 1950 our total giving receipts were $4195.15. The balance on my yearlt report that year was a deficit of $12.01. We owed a church debt then of $2651.71. During the years 1951, 1952 and 1953 nearly every weekly balance was in the red. This was also true during the years of 1957-1959. At the same time our church was looking to move and relocate to our present position. In 1960 our budget giving had increased to keep us out of the red as well as to pay for acreage and the building of a new church facility.

Our Building Fund giving topped an all time high in 1974, a total of $26,467.15, which is an average of almost $510.00 per week. Since then it has decreased every year except one. This year we received a weekly average of $243 for a total of $12,663.75. This has been one area of real concern for me this year.

The same is not true of our budgetary giving. This year our budgetary giving has excelled any year in the history of our Church. We totaled nearly $42,000 for a weekly average of $807. Not including the Day Care, our total income this year, including the budget, Building Fund, small accounts and etc., has reached nearly $61,000! This is an average of $1172.00 per week! I believe that I can say I have had fewer concerns over getting our bills paid this past year than in any year that I have served as treasurer.

As I retrospect over these thirty years, I am grateful to God for His leadership and oversight. We are truly a blessed congregation. Certainly He has great things in store for us this ensuing year. I am thankful to be a small part of this ministry.

I shall do my utmost to perform any duties assigned to me. I love and appreciate all of you.

With much love in Christ,

Alma F. Baus, Treasurer

Spiritual Advisory Council Report...

Many items of important business were transacted by the Spiritual Advisory Council over the past year. The most important task was that of serving as Pulpit Committee.

Upon the resignation of Rev. Heater on August 31, 1980, the Pulpit Committee began meeting immediately. Our first order of business was that of calling a Counseling Minister to work with us in the calling of our full-time pastor. The Council elected to ask Rev. Glen K. Cox to be our Counseling Minister.

Rev. Cox was with us on Sunday morning, Sunday evening and Wednesday evenings to conduct our services. He also met with the Pulpit Committee. Many briefs, as well as personal interviews were read and conducted. In an effort to secure the best possible candidate, much prayer and fasting went into this process, as well as much deliberation. Through the entire process, the Pulpit Committee was guided by advice from the State Offices of the Church of God.

On December 7, 1980, in a special called business meeting, the congregation voted unanimously 100% to call Rev. Charles Black to be our pastor. Rev. Black accepted the call and came to pastor our congregation on January 1st, 1981.

Through these days of trial, each Council member has testified to a closer walk with God, as well as a new love for one another, as well as the Church. For these things we humbly say, "PRAISE THE LORD".

Respectfully submitted,

Wilma Robison
Spiritual Advisory Council
Vice-Chairman

Council members in the past year were:
Rev. Heater
Greg Alexander
Fred Smith
Jackie Myers
Betty Clark
Alma Bays
Bill Falin
Wilma Robison
Ann Mathena
Mary Phillips

Board of Christian Education Report...

The past year was a successful year for the Board of Christian Education. As in years past, we have had a very competent teaching staff.

The 200th anniversary of the Sunday School movement was celebrated with a special BANANA SPLIT SUNDAY. A total of 121 banana splits were served to young and old alike. This was a good time of fellowship for all.

BANANA SPLIT SUNDAY was also our kick-off for the Vacation Bible School in 1980. We had a one week VBS, which was quite a success under the direction of Mrs. Jean Whitmoyer. The theme of our school was "The Miracles of Jesus". A new concept was tried in 1980, in that we conducted a class for adults. This was very well received and those adults attending enjoyed it every bit as much as the children.

Attendance was down some over the last year, but in recent weeks it has begun an upward trend. For this we are most thankful!

Our goal is always for better Christian Education of all ages. We strive to do this through prayer, dedication and new and better Sunday School literature.

Respectfully submitted,

Wilma Robison
Christian Education Director

Visitation Director's Report...

As Visitation Director in the year 1980, I am very thankful for those who took part in this program, especially to those who were regular. We had four people who visited on a regular basis;if it was at all possible they visited every Thursday. There were a few others who visited on a less regular basis. To all of these, we say, "Thank you."

We were able to call in approximately 52 homes, which adds up to approximately 140 people contacted. I am not satisfied with what we were able to accomplish in 1980 as a church, in the visitation program. Due to the fact that we were without pastoral leadership for so long, our people were discouraged and there were other reasons why many people did not attend on Thursday evenings. But, as Christians, doing God's will, we do not look back but look as did Paul. He tells us, regarding his own spiritual attainment, in Philippians 3:13-14, "I count not myself to have apprehended, but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

This must be our desire to go forward in the year 1981. God has sent us wonderful leaders. We must not let them down. We as a church have great things in store for us. God has blessed us because we have been faithful and trusted Him to lead us.

If we are concerned, and if we do care what happens to people spiritually, we are going to have to carry a burden for lost souls. There are lonely people out there who need us and the Lord.

Let's look forward together with great anticipation to the year 1981 being the best year we have ever had as a church that reaches other people. My goal for the next year is for our church to visit in at least 500 homes. Are we going to stand still, back up or move forward? We want to move forward for God; doing things for God and His people excites me. It is a real blessing to visit and invite people to be a part of the fellowship of God's people. We have a job to do; nobody is going to do our job for us.

"Therefore said He unto them, 'The harvest truly is great,

but the laborers are few: Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He would send forth laborers into His harvest.'" (Luke 10:2 KJV)

"Say not ye, there are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." (John 4:35 KJV)

In Christian love,

Mary Phillips
Visitation Director

Faith Missions Committee Report...

Our first Faith Missions Convention was held May 15-19, 1974 under the leadership of Clair and Retha Shultz, former pastors of this church and retired missionaries. They spent many years in Trinidad and Kenya.

Our goal was $8000; we received pledges totaling $6500. Foreign missions that were helped were: Nassar Farag in Kenya, Ronald Mauer in Japan, purchase of land in Rome, beginning missions in Bolivia and a mobile unit for Tom McCracken in Brazil.

Home missions projects that were helped were: the American Indians and the Kentucky Mountain People.

Local needs that were benefitted by our convention were Radio and Bus Ministries, local evangelism and local expenses.

Helen Hinshaw was the Treasurer and Secretary.

Our second Faith Missions Convention was held September 28-October 2, 1977. Our theme was Confronted-Committed! Leaders were Jerry Brandon and Nathan and Ann Smith, long-time missionaries in Japan, now assigned to Korea, were the main speakers. Also on the program was Paul Armagum from Guiana. Mazie Mills was the Treasurer with Alma Bays the assistant. Our goal was again $8000; we received pledges totaling $5300.

Monies were distributed on a percentage basis as follows: In foreign missions-Korea-12½%; Kenya-12½%; Rome-6¼%; Brazil-6¼%; World Hunger-6¼%, in home missions-Spanish churches-6¼%; Seminary-6¼%; Hope Hill Childrens' Home-6¼%; Philippines-6¼%; Robin Das-6¼% and on the local missions we gave to Local Bus and Radio Ministry-12½% and local evangelism and expenses-12½%.

Financial report---
Total monies on deposit on 1-1-81 ..... $531.69
($529.33-savings...$2.36-checkings)
designated for local evangelism.....$204.43
designated for local expenses.....$204.43
balance to designated as follows:

Foreign missions.....$53.74
Korea..... $15.35
Nasar Farag... $15.35
Rome..... $ 7.68
Brazil..... $ 7.68
World Hunger.. $ 7.68
Home Missions.....$23.04
Spanish churches .. $7.68
Seminary..... $7.68
Hope Hill Home..... $7.68
Phillipines..... $7.68
Robin Das..... $7.68
Local Needs.....$30.69
Bus ministry..... $7.68
Radio ministry..... $7.68
Local Evangelism... $7.68
Local expenses..... $7.68
Total monies on deposit on 2-25-81 ..... $424.19
($421.83-savings...$2.36-checkings)
Designated for local evangelism...$212.11
Designated for local evangelism...$212.08

No money, except interest, has been received during the last quarter of the year 1980 or in 1981. A third Faith Missions Convention was planned to be held in October 1980 with Jerry Brandon as director but was cancelled after Rev. Heater's resignation.

THE JOY OF UNSELFISH GIVING

Time is not measured
by the years that you live
But by the deeds that you do
and the joy that you give-
And each day as it comes
brings a chance to each one
To love to the fullest
leaving nothing undone
That would brighten the life
or lighten the load
Of some weary traveler
lost on Life's Road-
So what does it matter
how long we may live
If as long as we live
we unselfishly give?
-Helen Steiner Rice

Respectfully submitted
Mazie Mills, Treasurer-Alma Bays, Ass't Treasurer

Benevolence Committee Report...

A committee known as the Benevolence Committee has been in existance since June of 1973, and was chosen by the Spiritual Advisory Council. It was chosen to investigate the needs of families and to distribute funds as needed. Offerings for the various needs were taken usually as they arose. There were no funds designated through the budget. The Benevolence Committee usually had five members, having a chairman and treasurer designated by the Spiritual Advisory Council at the time of appointment. This committee has held no regular meetings. The monies have been deposited in a savings and checking accounts at the American National Bank. Presently money is being held only in a checking account. Only local needs have been considered in the past.

During the year 1979 we began taking what we called "Others Offerings" and a total of $439.85 was received during the calendar year 1979 for local benevolence. These offerings were taken as needs arose.

On February 18, 1980, the Spiritual Advisory Council appointed the following persons to serve for the ensuing year: Fred Smith-Chairman, Doris Smith-Vice Chairman, Ruth Clark-Treasurer, Virginia Smith, Olive Fisher, Mona Bragg and Eddie Bragg.

At the beginning of 1980 the balance in the Benevolent Fund account was $51.90. One offering was taken in the year in the amount of $134.25. Funds were disbursed to four families in the form of groceries, rent and oil for heating totaling $177.50. On December 31, 1980 the balance in the checking account was $8.65.

In a meeting of the Board, it was voted that an "Others Offering" be taken on each first Sunday of every month in the future. This will keep the account ready for an needs that may arise from time to time. In January and February the offerings totaled $79.00. Expenditures in those two months were $12.90 leaving a balance of $74.75 as of February 18, 1981.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred T. Smith, Chairman
Ruth Clark, Treasurer

"In as much ye have done... as ye have done..... to the least... to Me!"

Financial Report...

BUDGET

Balance in budget checking account 1/1/80	$624.99
Regular Offerings received in 1980	$39,106.29
Special Offerings received in 1980	$ 1,364.33
Designated giving in 1980	$ 432.68
Miscellaneous income	$ 1,065.95
TOTAL ASSETS ACCOUNTABLE	$42,594.24
Budgetary expenditures for year 1980	$42,153.93
Balance in budget checking account 1/1/81	$440.31

BUILDING FUND

Balance in building fund account 1/1/80	$954.13
Regular offerings during 1980	$11,509.45
Interest earned in 1980	$ 4.30
Borrowed from savings in 1980	$ 1,150.00
TOTAL ASSETS ACCOUNTABLE	$13,617.88
Disbursements during 1980	$13,652.00
Balance in building fund account 1/1/81	-$34.12

*Balance due to special savings account...$550.00
*Balance due to Board of Church Extension.$53,740.85
*Laity notes were paid off in full in 1980

SPECIAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Balance in account 1/1/80	$1,573.91
Interest earned in 1980	$ 51.21
Payment from loan to bldg fund	$ 600.00
TOTAL ASSETS ACCOUNTABLE	$ 2,225.12
Disbursements during 1980 (loan to bldg fund)	$ 1,150.00
Balance in account 1/1/81	$1,075.12

*$550.00 still on loan to bldg fund
*$600.00 of present balance designated for ceiling repair

MEMORIAL FUND

Balance on hand 1/1/81	$126.00

RADIO ACCOUNT

Balance in account 1/1/80	$255.99
Interest earned in 1980	$ 43.44
Faith missions distribution	$ 99.58
TOTAL ASSETS ACCOUNTABLE	$ 399.01
Deposit of non-designated gift	$ 2,000.00
TOTAL BALANCE IN SAVINGS	$ 2,399.01
Disbursements during 1980 (loan to day-care)	$ 500.00
Balance in account 1/1/81	$1,899.01

*$500.00 still on loan to day-care
*$2,000.00 gift remains on deposit

HAPPINESS IS...CHILD CARE CENTER

Balance on hand 1/1/80	-0-
Regular earnings in 1980	$13,041.30
Loan from laity note to open day-care	$ 4,000.00
Loan from budget account	$ 400.00
Loan from special savings account	$ 500.00
Designated offering to day-care	$ 42.00
TOTAL ASSETS ACCOUNTABLE	$17,983.30
Salary expenditures during 1980	$11,915.29
Expenditures to prepare for opening	$ 3,953.60
Expenditures for meals	$ 1,674.67
Miscellaneous expenditures	$ 468.87
TOTAL EXPENDITURES 1980	$18,012.43
Balance in account checking 1/1/81	-$29.13

*Balance due to laity note...$4,000.00
*Balance due to budget account...$400.00
*Balance due to special savings account...$500.00

FAITH PROMISE FOR MISSIONS

Receipts disbursed to designated accounts in 1980.$1324.00

BUS MINISTRY

Receipts disbursed to bus ministry account.....$1330.91

Proposed budget for fiscal year 1981...

Pastor's salary	$ 8,476.00
Car allowance	3,016.00
Board of Pensions, member's share	294.00
Conference expense allowance	300.00
Housing Allowance	6,600.00
Assistant ministers	10,400.00
Local bus ministry	500.00
World Service and State Evangelism, Budgetary	5,696.00
Local evangelistic services	200.00
Sanctuary choir	200.00
Worship, S.S., Childrens' Church supplies	2,000.00
Board of Pensions, Church's share	780.00
Conference expence allowance for laity	200.00
Office supplies	500.00
Postage	750.00
Advertising	500.00
Indiana Gas Company	4,500.00
Public Service Indiana	2,000.00
Indiana Bell Telephone Company	600.00
Janitorial services	4,000.00
Janitorial supplies	200.00
Building and Grounds Maintenance	800.00
Property repair and upkeep	1,000.00
Insurance	2,000.00
New equipment	1,000.00
Funeral flowers and condolences	350.00
Miscellaneous	100.00
TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 1981	$56,962.00

Budget needs per week to meet proposed budget... $ 1,095.00